

# The City of Marion, South Carolina

## SWAMP FOX SCENE

A FREE monthly news magazine for  
the citizens and visitors of the Swamp Fox City



Volume 7, Issue 11

April 2018

### Employees and others recognized at City Annual Banquet

The City of Marion Employee Recognition banquet was held on March 20th and several awards were presented including revealing the 2017 Employee of the Year.



Mayor Ashley Brady stated that this award recognizes one City Employee who has excelled in his or her work in the past year and is the highest honor of the program. A committee is appointed by the Mayor to receive nominations from Department Heads and review the work of each employee nominated. This committee meets to select the person they believe has made the most significant contribution to the city. Once again a deserving individual has been chosen and this year **RICHARD MOODY** was selected as our **EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR**. **Richard** has been employed with the City of Marion since 2009. He began in the Sanitation Department and transferred to his current position at the Marion Recreation Department as custodian for our many recreation facilities and buildings in the fall of 2017. **Richard** is a great employee and a huge asset to the Marion Recreation Department. He is always kind, friendly and willing to help out wherever he can. Richard has been named "**Employee of the Month**" 3 times in the past five years and was recognized on each occasion by city officials for his strong work ethic and positive attitude.

His supervisor Kimberly Elliott stated, "What a true blessing Richard has been since he came on board with the Recreation Department. She added that he greets her with a smile every morning, he is always on time, and she never has to question whether his work for the day will be carried out. She constantly receives comments from individuals who rent city facilities about the cleanliness of the buildings. **Richard** is also employed part-time with the Marion Presbyterian Church. He and his wife, Brenda, are lifelong residents of Marion.

**Retirees – Jimmy Collins**, Jimmy Collins was a full-time employee with the Marion Fire Department from September 2004 until his retirement in March 2017. He continues to serve the department on a part-time basis and as a volunteer. Jimmy is also a member of the Marion Rescue Squad and is a past recipient of the Marion Rescue Squad Captain's Award. He works hard for the community and is very active in the Marion Fire Department's public education and fire prevention programs. Jimmy is always willing and able to lend a helping hand 24/7, and he dedicates his time during the Christmas season to play Santa Claus year after year. Also recognized in their absence was **Robbie Johnson** longtime employee at the Recreation Department for over 38 years and **Ronnie Sanders**, who was hired in the Recreation Department and was promoted to Street Department Superintendent was employed for over 34 years. We appreciate their hard work and dedication and wish them well in their retirement.

**Recognition of Special Retiree** - Mrs. Mary Batson was honored at the Annual City Employee Banquet for her 45 years of service to the City of Marion. She began her career as City Clerk in 1959, and served the citizens of Marion and the City Council faithfully until her retirement in 2004. Mrs. Batson recently celebrated her 90th birthday and is the longest tenured living retiree of the City of Marion.



**Public Service Award** for outstanding public service to the City of Marion, was presented by Mayor Ashley Brady. The recipient of this award is selected by an Anonymous Committee. The award honors people who have unselfishly given their time, energy and resources to help better the city. Mayor Brady stated as in years past, a Committee made up of City employees, has chosen a most deserving person to receive this year's Public Service Award. It's always a daunting task for the committee to choose just one person, as there are so many folks dedicated to the betterment of our City.

The Public Service Award was presented to Ms. Dolly Boyer. She is a strong voice and a true advocate for safety in our community. She is dedicated to ensuring the safety of our neighbors and making sure that crime is addressed. Through many successful efforts, she has worked tirelessly with her teams to reduce the opportunity for crime, and to provide more and better information to law enforcement. She believes in being the eyes and ears of the neighborhood. One of her biggest efforts of community outreach in 2017 was hosting the third National Night Out event in the City of Marion, at which more than 70 people walked several blocks showing their support for maintaining a safe community. She strongly lives by the motto "We Are Our Neighbors Keeper!"



Fireman of the year was presented by Fire Chief Trey Cooper to Bobby Nichols, Police Officer of the Year Award was presented by Captain Chris Smith to Bobby Jones and Chief's Award also presented by Captain Smith to Derric Ray.

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**Service Awards** were given to the following:  
*Five Years* – Sgt. Derrick Ray (Police Department), Brad Altman (not present), Roger Holder (Volunteer Fireman), Bobby Nichols, Ed Pittman and Justin Trapp (Volunteers Fireman - not present),

*Ten Years* – Elizabeth Gray (Personnel/Purchasing), Trey Cooper (Volunteer Fireman), Hezekiah Brown (Public Works), Sherrie Ransom (Police Department) and Joshua Brown (Volunteer Fireman).

*Fifteen Years* – Kevin Hammond (Volunteer Fireman)

*Forty Years* – Ben Bethea (Volunteer Fireman).

Mr. Richard Moody was the lucky winner of the night. Not only was he chosen for Employee of the Year but Mr. Richard received the first door prize which was the gas and charcoal grill donated by AWS. Lt. Tony Flowers won the Trimmer donated by Barry’s Outdoors of Mullins and Jimmy Collins won the Tablet donated by AWS.

Mayor Brady thanked all who donated generously to honor the city’s employees and guests. What a wonderful and blessed night of fellowship!! Congratulations to all the city employees for your hard work and dedication to the City of Marion.

**Looking for Information?**

Call **City Hall, 843-423-5961**, unless otherwise noted, and one of the following will be able to help you.

- Mayor Ashely Brady**, (843) 992-3773
- Alan Ammons**, City Administrator & Building Official, Ext. 19
- Lakesha Shannon**, City Clerk, Ext. 10
- Patricia Brown**, City Treasurer, Ext. 18
- Ainsley Sanders**, Administrative Assistant, Ext. 11
- Elizabeth Gray**, Personnel & Purchasing Director, (843) 423-8614
- Vickie J. Nichols**, Grant Writer & Publicist, Ext. 22
- Kim Elliott**, Recreation Director, (843) 423-5410
- Chris Smith**, Interim Police Chief, (843) 423-8616
- Lt. Tony Flowers**, Investigator (843) 423-8602
- Lt. Marilyn Rogers**, Investigator (843) 423-8602
- Trey Cooper**, Fire Chief, (843) 423-8602
- Jackie Yates**, Assistant Fire Chief (843) 423-8602
- Heather Evans**, Municipal Court Clerk, (843) 423-8616
- Alemeta Mullins**, Secretary, (843) 423-8616

**City will have annual clean-up**

The City of Marion’s annual clean-up is set for April 23rd -27th. The city sanitation workers will pick up all junk, tires, small appliances that are placed by city residents on the street curb.

This is a once-a-year opportunity to discard such unwanted items. For information about the city-wide clean-up, call the City Administrator Alan Ammons at 843-423-5961.

**Save the Date!!! Annual Foxtrot Festival  
May 17-19**

Thursday of Foxtrot weekend is reserved for the youth with entertainment from magic shows to story-tellers galore all centered on our youth. The preceding Friday night includes a spectacular fireworks show for the entire family to jump start the Saturday fun!

The setting for this festival on Saturday, includes a 10 a.m. parade, arts and crafts, food vendors, cars and tractors show, amusements, a petting zoo and pony rides. A street dance, with live music rounds out Saturday's events.

For more information, visit [www.marionfoxtrotfest.com](http://www.marionfoxtrotfest.com), or contact Regina Stanley, 843-206-4182 or email [marionfoxtrotfestival@gmail.com](mailto:marionfoxtrotfestival@gmail.com).

**Coming in April!!!!!!**



**April 1st - Easter Sunday**

**April 2nd - 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. World Autism Awareness.** Marion County Sheriff’s Office, 2715 E. Highway 76, Mullins.

**April 4th - 8:30 a.m. Rise and Shine** at Bennye's Sandwich Shoppe, 615 N. Main Street, Marion.

**April 10th - 6:30 p.m. City Council Meeting.** Council Chambers.

**April 10th - 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Board of Education Election.** District 1, 3, 4 and 5. Remember to go out and cast your **VOTE!!!** IT DOES MAKE A DIFFERENT.

**April 14th - 9:00 a.m. The Fox84 Initiative For Boys.** 2nd Annual Fox84 Initiative 5K Fun Run/Walk Registration will begin at 7:30 a.m. Register online at [www.thefox84initiative.com](http://www.thefox84initiative.com). If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Christopher Shelvin (704) 249-6199 or our sponsorship coordinator Mr. Don Livingston Jr. at (205) 310-3711.

**April 16th - 20th. Marion County annual Great American clean-up.** For information contact Christie Davis at 843-423-3904 or email [cdavis@marionsc.org](mailto:cdavis@marionsc.org)

**April 17th – 6:00 p.m. Team Meeting.** Relay for Life. Carolina Hospital Systems. Host is Team Nancy.

**April 17th- 10:00 a.m. Public Hearing. CDBG .** City of Marion Council Chambers, 107 S. Main Street.

**April 18th - 11:30 a.m. Denim Day Event.** For more information, please contact Rev. Marvin Hemingway at 430-8131.

**April 21st - 1st Annual Benefit Ride.** Relay for Life. 1st Annual Benefit Ride beginning at Black Jack Harley Davidson. Pre-register at [relayforlifeofmarionsc.ticketpspice.com](http://relayforlifeofmarionsc.ticketpspice.com)

**Lakesha Shannon city’s employee of the Month**



Marion City Clerk Lakesha Shannon was selected as the February 2018 Employee of the Month. Lakesha was originally hired as the City Clerk in March 2006. After a break in service, she was re-hired in January 2017 and is responsible for keeping all official municipal records and documents.

Lakesha attends all regular and special meetings of City Council and prepares agendas, committee meeting notices, minutes and public hearing notices.

In addition to her duties as municipal clerk and business license administrator, Lakesha coordinates and makes the necessary arrangements for meetings, special programs and City events throughout the year. “The quality of her work is exceptional, and Lakesha gets along well with everyone”, said City Administrator Alan Ammons.

Mayor Ashley Brady and City Council recognized Lakesha Shannon for her service and dedication to the City of Marion at the March 13th Council Meeting.

## BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: Marion Family Dentistry

Written by Promotions Team of Historic Marion Revitalization Association:



Marion Family Dentistry prides itself in providing its patients with high quality, cost effective dentistry. We are a fun, loving, family-oriented practice owned by Dr. Terry Smith. Dr. Smith bought the practice in June of 1990, which was originally built and established in 1953 by Dr. Wolpert. A native of

Charleston, Dr. Smith was attracted to the small, quaint town of Marion because of its southern charm and rich history.

Marion Family Dentistry sees all ages of patients from 1 to 101. We offer a wide variety of services including cleanings, cosmetic bonding, crowns, bridges, dentures and whitening. We are always excited to welcome new patients and strive to give them the best dental experience they've ever had.

Marion Family Dentistry is located on Harlee Street in downtown Marion, open **Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.** Call us at **843-423-1044** to schedule your appointment and become part of our family.

## A-TEAM NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

"WE ARE OUR NEIGHBORS' KEEPERS"

Contributed by: Dolly Boyer

We have all heard about the risks of identity theft. What we have probably never considered is what happens when a loved one dies. Nearly 800,000 people a year are targeted after death. Often our last tribute to a loved one is their obituary. Yet, the details we publish make their identities and their relatives vulnerable to identity thieves. With the information learned from an obit, a criminal can purchase or figure out a person's social security number. Once they have the social security number, they can apply for loans, file tax returns to get refunds, and open fraudulent credit card accounts. The first five digits of social security numbers are linked to the time and place of birth. Obits that list the names of grandchildren leave the surviving grandparent open to additional scams. Crooks will pose as grandchildren with sob stories of needing money. In the early days of this type scam, research found that all the victims had recent deaths with obits that listed the names of grandchildren. Remember less detail in the obituary will help avoid these scams. Report deaths to all three of the major credit reporting agencies, the Social Security Administration, IRS, insurers, etc. Also close down social media accounts. A-Team meets the first Monday of each month. Due to the Easter holiday our next meeting will be on April 9th. For more information call Dolly @ 843-433-0941. See you around the neighborhood.

## MARION CHAMBER BOOK PROJECT



The Marion Chamber of Commerce is in its 8th year of distributing books for the third graders of Marion County. To date the Chamber has distributed over 3000 books. The book given is "Francis Marion and the Legend of The Swamp Fox" by Kate Salley Palmer, who lives in the Clemson area of the state. This project has had a two-fold impact - impressing the im-

portance of reading and giving the young people a sense of just how important our county was in the history of our nation. On March 6, 2018 with the assistance of the following Chamber directors, Deborah Martin, Chamber President, Darrell Jameson, Brian Wallace, Judy Wesley, Susan Yarborough, Deborah Wimberly, and Cindy Rogers, Executive Vice-President, the Chamber distributed the books in the public schools. Without the help of our member sponsors this project would not have been possible. We appreciate their commitment to the Chamber and also to the students in Marion County.



The book plate inside each book reads: The Marion Chamber of Commerce along with businesses and individuals listed below present this book to you for your personal library. We hope our gift reminds you of General Francis Marion's legacy, his role in the history of our country and local community, and Marion County's importance in our nation's history.

Book Project Sponsors:

- Anderson Brothers Bank
- Charlie & Frances Bethea
- Jimmy & Anne Burroughs
- Duke Energy
- First Citizens Bank
- Historic Marion Revitalization Association
- Bill & Judy Johnson
- Marion County Healthcare Foundation
- Pee Dee Federal Savings Bank
- Gwen Strickland

- Representative Lucas Atkinson
- Bridgers Drug Store
- Candlelight Gifts
- First Charter Company
- Groupe Beneteau
- Darrell Jameson
- Robert E. Lee Law Firm
- Craig Martin, CPA
- Mrs. Lina Rice
- Dr. Carson Whittington

The Swamp Fox Scene is the City of Marion's Free monthly newspaper for citizens and visitor's of the Swamp Fox City, Marion, South Carolina. Printed by Herald Multiforms in Dillon, city employees produce and distribute the newspaper.

The Marion Chamber and HMRA help pay printing costs.

A PDF version is available by e-mail or online. For more information about the newspaper, call Mayor Ashley Brady or City Administrator Alan Ammons at (843) 423-5961.

## The Weight Room is OPEN for BUSINESS

Attention: All Returning Swamp Fox Football Players & Interested Football Players....

Please be advised that **Off-Season Conditioning** has begun

**When:** Monday thru Thursday

**Time:** 3:30pm – 5:00pm

**Where:** Marion High School Weight Room.

Please come prepared for in-door or outdoor conditioning. This includes sweat pants, shorts, t-shirt, sweatshirt & sneakers.

If you have any questions, please call the school @ (843) 423-2571 or see the following coaches:

- Head Football Coach Quin McCollum
- Asst. Coach Tim Perkins
- Asst. Coach Jason English,
- Asst. Coach Brian Hennecey
- Asst. Coach George Connell
- Asst. Coach Jeremy Oxendine
- Asst. Coach Matthew Caulder
- Asst. Coach Demetrious Johnson

### Eastern District Tournament



On Saturday, March 3, 2018, the Marion Recreation Department had the pleasure of hosting two District Tournaments for Basketball. Between the two tournaments, there were 16 teams represented, including Marion 8U and 12u boys. There were over 600 spectators in attendance throughout the day.

Teams in the 8U boys division were Marion, Florence, Chesterfield, Sumter, Aynor, Marlboro County, Mullins and Cheraw. Marion lost out in the first round to a tough Florence team. Florence went on to win the 8U Eastern District Division II Championship.

In the 12U boys division, competing were teams from Marion, Cheraw, Lake City, Latta, Dillon, Mullins, North Strand and Pawley's Island. Our 12U boys plowed through Cheraw, Lake City and Pawley's Island to become the 12U Eastern District Division II Champions. These guys moved on to the State Tournament.



Besides, the 8U and 12U boys, we also had 4 other teams competing in district tournaments at other facilities. Our 12U girls were in Latta, 14U boys were in Lake City and our 17U Boys were in Bucksport. Neither of these teams were successful in their championship birth; however, each coach and player represented Marion with the utmost respect.

Finally, our fourth team, 10U boys were competing in Aynor. They were able to take down Georgetown County, Latta, Lake City and Dillon in order to clinch their Eastern District II Championship. These guys moved on to the State Tournament.

The Marion Recreation is proud of all of these young individuals and their coaches.

### State Tournament



On Saturday, March 10, 2018, our 12U Boys and 10U Boys basketball teams competed in the SCRPA State Basketball Tournament for Division II.

First up were our 10U Boys. The players and coaches traveled to Blenheim, SC where they were to compete against two teams in order to clinch the State title. Marion was able to pull off a tough victory in the first game against Mullins. However, Abbeville was a tough match up in the final game. Our boys came up short; however, they were named Division II State Runner-Up.

Meanwhile, in Ridgeland, SC, our 12U boys also had to defeat two teams in order to be considered the



State Champions. Their first match up was with Central Clemson, and it was a tough one. These young men pulled through and made it to the Championship game. In the Championship game, they over-came a deficit to clinch a 10 point victory over Bamberg. The Marion 12U boys basketball team was named Division II State Champions.

Congratulations to all these young men and their coaches. The Marion Recreation is so proud of them. They have all worked hard. There have been a lot of hours and dedication put in in order to claim these two titles.

### SCBA air pack



Marion Fire Department is proud to announce that we have replaced all of our SCBA air pack with state of the art MSA G1 packs with integrated thermal imaging thanks to a FEMA AFG Grant. Also thank you to Newton's Fire and Safety.

### The 2nd Annual Fox84 Initiative 5k Fun Run/Walk



The Fox84 Initiative for Boys will have its 2nd Annual Initiative 5k Fun Run/Walk in Marion on April 14, 2018. The race will begin at Marion High School. Registration will begin at 7:30 a.m. If you are interested in participating in the even you can register at [www.wizathon.com/fox84-initiative-5K](http://www.wizathon.com/fox84-initiative-5K). For more information about the 5k Run/Walk contact Mr. Christopher Shelvin at [cshelvin@thefox84initiative.com](mailto:cshelvin@thefox84initiative.com) or our sponsorship coordinator Mr. Don Livingston Jr. at (205) 310-3711.

Please visit our website at [www.thefox84initiative.com](http://www.thefox84initiative.com) for additional information on our organization or its mission.

### Relay for Life

Relay for Life of Marion County Event is making changes this year. We are moving our event date to August 4, 2018. Our hope is that this will give us more opportunities to raise money and get our community more involved and get the word out. Please help us do that.

We have our meetings at Carolinas Hospital System in Marion, Classroom A on the 3rd Tuesday of each month beginning at 6:00 pm.

Cancer survivors and caregivers meet at 5:30 to plan and discuss upcoming events specifically for you. If you are a cancer survivor or caregiver please contact Wanda Legett 843-229-4031 or [leggettswana@yahoo.com](mailto:leggettswana@yahoo.com).

### Marion County Museum News

Starting in January, the Marion County Museum began having some much needed renovation done. These renovations are possible because of a Grant the Museum received from the Marion County Healthcare Foundation. Work is being done to repair an office area which had extensive water and termite damage. Also, the kitchen is being expanded and improved. This is Phase One of this project. While these improvements are going on, the Museum is open, but not able to host events. Please come visit, but pardon our dust while renovations are in process.

Rosanne Black, Marion County Museum Director